



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

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For more information contact:
Karen Drewen / Jason Huffine
(410) 436-3445 / (410) 436-7491
karen.j.drewen@us.army.mil
jason.huffine@us.army.mil

Cheryl Avery
Pine Bluff Arsenal
(870) 540-3420
cheryl.avery@us.army.mil

Army completes binary chemical treatment *Project brings U.S. closer to completing treaty requirements*

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, Ark. - The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency has completed operations at the Binary Destruction Facility here.

In a campaign that began in December 2005, the agency's Non-Stockpile Chemical Material Project and contractor Teledyne Brown Engineering neutralized the binary chemical precursors QL and DF.

Binary munitions were designed to combine two non-lethal ingredients while in flight to a target to create chemical agent. QL, or diisopropyl aminoethylmethyl phosphonite, would have combined with another chemical to form the nerve agent VX. DF, methylphosphonic difluoride, was designed to combine with another chemical to form the nerve agent sarin (GB).

Only one binary munition type, the M687 GB projectile, was manufactured; none were used. The original binary program closed in 1991 under terms with the USSR. This agreement ended both nations' chemical weapons production and development.

The neutralized binary materiel will be destroyed at a commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility in Texas by December 2007.

Laurence Gottschalk, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project Manager, said he is proud of the team of contractors and government employees who completed the project.

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"We're proud to have achieved the destruction of this binary materiel," he said. "We can credit this achievement to the hard work of many people. This milestone is another step toward CMA's goal of the complete, safe elimination of chemical warfare materiel."

The Binary Destruction Facility is housed in the only remaining Integrated Binary Production Facilities (IBPF) building. The other IBPF buildings have been destroyed in compliance with U.S. treaty requirements. Workers are now preparing for demolition of the final IBPF structure, which will complete the U.S.' requirement to destroy all of its former chemical weapons production facilities.

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